Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 10 2004 042245.1 filed September 1, 2004. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2005/001519 filed August 31, 2005. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Page 1, 3rd full paragraph, please amend paragraph as follows:

--To ensure that the collected water is drained off, the volume of water settling in the lower chamber of a fluid filter ~~in known filters is detected by draining off the collected water after reaching a preselectable maximum volume~~ is detected in known filters.--

Page 1, 4th full paragraph, please amend paragraph as follows:

--To prevent drainage of water collected at the bottom of a filter, British Patent GB 21 29 329 B describes suction removal of collected water in an extremely low volume flow through a venturi nozzle provided in the air intake line of the internal combustion engine and ~~then added to the intake air supplied to the combustion process.~~ then adding it to the intake air supplied to the combustion process. Similar devices are known from German Patent 36 00 669 A1 and U.S. Patent 4,637,351 A.--

On Page 1, please add this paragraph after the 4th full paragraph:

--WO 03 067 068 A1 describes a fuel filter device in which water collected in a lower area of the fuel filter can flow into a water collecting chamber that is separate from the filter. Together with water, fuel flowing more or less unavoidably out of the filter may flow back out of the water collecting chamber, where it separates at the top, into the tank. The fuel flowing back into the tank must be additionally conveyed in a type of

secondary circuit to the fuel conveyed in the usual way for the internal combustion engine.--

Please amend the paragraph that bridges pages 1 and 2 to read as follows:

--The present invention relates to the problem of creating a large water collecting volume in a generic fuel filter without thereby increasing the overall volume of the filter beyond the extent that it would assume without a water collecting chamber~~. In this way, a filter in which separated water is to be collected first before being discharged can be installed in an internal combustion engine at a location where only a small installation space is available.~~ and on the other hand increasing the usual fuel volume flow to be delivered for operation of the combustion engine by means of, for example, a secondary fuel circuit, e.g., of the type required with the device according to WO 03 067 068 A1 discussed above.

Page 2, lines 4 and 5, please amend this paragraph as follows:

--This problem is solved ~~achieved~~ by a generic fuel filter having the characterizing features of Patent Claim 1.--